Acronis

ACRONIS® ACCESS CONNECT
(formerly ExtremeZ-IP)

THE CHALLENGES OF A MIXED MAC-WINDOWS ENVIRONMENT

If your organization is one of the estimated 80% of enterprises that have Mac users in need of accessing files and documents in a mixed Mac-Windows environment, you know firsthand that Windows and Macs communicate with one another differently. When Mac users try to access Windows file and print servers they typically experience performance, data integrity, search slowness and many other issues, and your business is impacted in many ways:

- Cripplingly-slow, filename-only search of file shares
- Mac users struggling with file corruption, file permissions, application incompatibilities, files disappearing, locked files, file naming issues and disconnected sessions.
- Mac users experiencing issues with the same access to file and print resources as PC users.
- Reliability issues mounting and accessing shares from servers and NAS within the enterprise
- High levels of help desk calls because of the above

ACRONIS ACCESS CONNECT

Acronis Access Connect is the best file and print sharing solution for integrating Macs into the Enterprise because it eliminates Server Messaging Block SMB protocol bugs, performance and compatibility problems once and for all. It is an Apple Filing Protocol (AFP) file sharing service that runs on your Windows server and lets Macs connect to file shares and NAS via AFP instead of the SMB protocol.

THE BENEFITS OF ACRONIS ACCESS CONNECT

Access Connect provides three main benefits for Mac users in a Windows environment:

- AFP solution to SMB problems eliminates file compatibility problems and improves productivity
- Fast Spotlight searching improves productivity
- Mac / Windows integration

New! Access Connect now allows users to access their files using mobile devices such as iOS, Android, or Windows phones and tablets.

AFP SOLUTION TO SMB PROBLEMS

Mac OS X has always supported two network protocols:

- AFP, Apple's native file sharing protocol for Mac.
- SMB, the native file sharing protocol for Windows and typically used for NAS storage.

With each OS X update, Apple has attempted to improve Mac SMB compatibility. But even with the SMB3 support in OS X 10.10 Yosemite, Mac users continue to report frustrating problems, especially with key applications such as Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite.

Acronis Access Connect AFP support solves common Mac SMB problems, including:

- Long delays mounting shares, browsing folders, and opening files
- File corruption
- Disappearing files
- Crashing applications
- Permissions problems
- Disconnected sessions
- Locked files and file naming issues

IT managers in thousands of companies have found that by connecting to shares using the native AFP protocol, their Mac users can stop suffering those types of SMB problems, which improves productivity, while reducing frustration and help desk calls. Since Acronis Access Connect is a server-side solution, all Macs are automatically supported, whether they're running older or new versions of OS X.

FAST SPOTLIGHT SEARCHING

When Mac users connect over SMB to a Windows or NAS file share, they lose the fast Spotlight filename and content searches they're used to when searching locally or against OS X Server. Access Connect solves that by linking Spotlight searches to a server-side index. For files on Windows servers, it links seamlessly with the native Windows Search service. Since the Windows Search service cannot index NAS shares, Access Connect includes a new indexing feature: Acronis Content Indexing, which can index filenames, content, or both on supported NAS devices, making searches hundreds of times faster. Either way, Macs connected to the shares over AFP can then search filenames or content across thousands of files to quickly find the files they need. With the new mobile device support in Acronis Access Connect, users can even search Windows-based file shares from their phones or tablets.

MAC / WINDOWS INTEGRATION

Acronis Access Connect is designed from the ground up to integrate Macs with any size Windows environment, from workgroup servers to clustered VMs and NAS. Fully integrated with Active Directory and NTFS permissions, Mac users can log in with their standard credentials and get the expected permissions to their files. With the Access Connect Network Reshare feature (enterprise license required), Macs can use AFP to access files on other Windows servers and NAS devices, through a single server.

Access Connect easily integrates with key Windows infrastructure elements, including:

- Kerberos / Single Sign On
- DFS / Network Reshare
- Home directories
- Clustering
- Quotas
- File name policies
- Advanced logging

It also supports the Mac-oriented features that end users expect:

- Fast Spotlight Searching
- Time Machine backups
- Unix / ACL permissions
- Print queue support
- Domain password change (via AFP connection dialog)

NEW FEATURES IN ACRONIS ACCESS CONNECT

- Acronis Access Connect expands beyond Macs to provide fast, seamless file access for mobile devices, including those for iOS, Android, and Windows phones and tablets. The Access mobile clients provide rich file browsing, full content searching, file previewing and editing, as well as automatic synchronization for working offline.
- Native client for tablets, phones and PCs running Windows 8.1

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Server
- Operating System: Windows Server. 2012 R2 or 2008 R2 recommended.
- Windows 8, 7, Vista, XP Pro, XP Embedded
- Processor: Dual or quad core recommended
- RAM: 2GB minimum; 4GB recommended
- Access Connect volumes must be on NTFS formatted drives

Mac
- Mac OS X 10.2.3 or later supported, including 10.9 Mavericks and 10.10 Yosemite
- No Mac software installation is required

Mobile
- Acronis Access mobile app running on iOS, Android or Windows tablet.

Expert Support

Acronis Support provides key value beyond the software itself. Our team of experts has over 20 years of experience with Mac/Windows integration to help customers in complex environments.

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